

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3207
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Cutting and Smuggling of Red Sanders
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cutting down and smuggling of Red sanders are prevalent in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether logs of red sanders have been seized in some States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by Government to check the aforesaid practice?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, instances of cutting and smuggling of Red Sanders in the districts of Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasham and Kurnool have been reported.

(b) & (c) The details of seizures of red sanders are given in Annexure.

(d) State Governments which are primarily responsible for the protection and Management of Forests take necessary action to tackle illegal felling/smuggling of trees as per the provisions of various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and various state specific rules & regulations thereof. Further, the State Governments take various other measures for protection of existing forests including survey demarcation, fencing, patrolling, setting of check posts, use of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Financial assistance is also provided under Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Intensification of Forest Management Scheme by the Government to supplement these protection efforts.

Some of the important initiatives taken by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for protection of Red Sanders include, inter alia, setting up of Base Camps and Strike Forces, setting up of Armed Mobile parties for patrolling, apprehending notorious smugglers and conducting raids, setting up of Dog Squads, formation of Red Sanders Anti –Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) and providing arms and mobility to forest staff. Further, Government of Andhra Pradesh has amended the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act vide Gazette Notification dated 19.05.2016. As per this amendment inter alia red sanders have been given special status and punishment for forest offences have been enhanced.

In addition, Government of India through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has taken a number of steps to prevent smuggling of Red Sanders. These include inspection of flora and fauna consignments at exit points to detect violations of provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) etc and sensitization of various agencies and trade regulation as per Export-Import (Exim) Policy.
